

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05 STR-04 /077 W

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R 151511Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8905

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR; ECIN, ETRD, UY, AR, BR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTS BORDABERRY AND GEISEL TO MEET

REF: MVD A042,

1. THE GOU ANNOUNCED MAY 12 THAT THE SECOND MEETING OF PRESIDENTS BORDABERRY AND GEISEL WILL BE HELD JUNE 12 IN THE URUGUAYAN FRONTIER CITY OF RIVERA. THE LONG AWAITED ENCOUNTER IS EXPECTED TO BE THE SCENE OF THE SIGNING OF MAJOR TRADE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. THESE ACCORDS MOST LIKELY WILL BE SIMILAR TO THOSE RECENTLY NEGOTIATED WITH ARGENTINA (SEE REF), AND CONTINUE URUGUAY'S POLICY OF PROMOTING ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND LINKS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

2. IF THE UPCOMING AGREEMENTS TURN OUT AS EXPECTED, URUGUAY WILL HAVE SKILLFULLY PLAYED OFF BRAZIL'S INTERESTS IN URUGUAY AGAINST THOSE OF ARGENTINA, TO GAIN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS FROM HER NORTHERN NEIGHBOR. SINCE 1973, ARGENTINA HAS MAINTAINED A VERY HIGH PROFILE IN URUGUAY, SIGNING A STEADY FLOW OF AGREEMENTS, COOPERATING IN MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND SUSTAIN-

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ING OTHER ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO INCREASE HER INFLUENCE IN THIS

COUNTRY. BRAZIL, IN CONTRAST, WHILE VERY SENSITIVE TO INCREASED ARGENTINE INFLUENCE IN URUGUAY, HAS LIMITED ITS ACTIVITIES IN URUGUAY TO A FEW POLITICALLY IMPORTANT MOVES SUCH AS THE UNPRECEDENTED PURCHASE OF 63 MILLION WORTH OF FROZEN BEEF IN 1974.

3. WHILE THE MEAT TRANSACTION WAS A ONE-TIME POLITICAL GESTURE ON THE PART OF BRAZIL AND WAS RECOGNIZED AS SUCH BY THE GOU, IT WAS ALSO VIEWED AS A GOD-SEND IN A YEAR WHICH SAW URUGUAY'S NORMAL EXPORT BEEF TRADE COLLAPSE. BRAZIL'S EXPECTED SIGNING OF TRADE AND OTHER AGREEMENTS WITH URUGUAY IS ALSO POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT AGAIN REAFFIRMS BRAZILIAN INTEREST IN, AND SUPPORT OF, THE GOU AND SIGNALS ITS CONCERN WITH ARGENTINE MOVES IN URUGUAY. FINALLY, THE EVENT ALREADY HAS GENERATED MUCH LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE DESPITE COMPETITION FOR SPACE FROM PRESIDENT BORDABERRY'S CURRENT VISIT TO PARAGUAY, THE HISTORIC FIRST VISIT OF A URUGUAYAN PRESIDENT TO THAT COUNTRY.

4. GDS
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